



ASSEMBLYMEMBER

**NICOLE PARRA**

Representing the 30th Assembly District

**Parra Notes**

September 23, 2005

Hello Friends:

For weeks I have been reminding folks about attending the first official meeting of the “**California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley**” at the **University of the Pacific** in **Stockton**. That meeting finally took place this past Friday and the turnout was fantastic. Among those in attendance were Tulare County Supervisor **Connie Conway**, Bakersfield City Councilwoman **Susan Benham**, Hanford City Councilwoman **Marcie Buford**, and former Kern County Supervisor **Pete Parra**.

The meeting convened with presentations from the **Public Policy Institute**, the **Great Valley Center**, and the **Labor and Workforce Development Agency**. After establishing the economic state of the **San Joaquin Valley**, board members proceeded to approve the principals and ground rules for the Partnership. However there was so much public comment that the principals will have to be rewritten and a new draft will be presented for approval at the next meeting. I'll keep you posted when an official time and date is set.

Board members and attendees then joined small breakout sessions to discuss the nine working groups that will develop the action plan for the Partnership. Below you will find the proposed working groups and a brief description of some of the issues they will address. If you are interested in taking part in any of these groups or simply want to provide input, please contact my Chief of Staff **Cynthia León** by e-mail at [Cynthia.Leon@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Leon@asm.ca.gov) .

**Proposed Working Groups:**

- **Economic Development**  
Consists of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development, Competitiveness of Target Industries, Infrastructure and Incentive Programs, and Renewable Energy.
- **Higher Education**  
Consists of Vocational Training, Local Workforce Investment Agencies, College Degree Attainment Rates, Access to Baccalaureate Education, Health Services and Medical Education.
- **K-12 Education**  
Will establish a high-level work group of the eight county superintendents of education for the purpose of engaging around a set of state strategies to improve low-performing schools.

- **Transportation**  
Will monitor and foster coordination of activities among the Highway 99 Task Force, Caltrans Highway 99 Master Plan, and Business Plan and interstate status negotiations.
- **Land Use, Agriculture and Housing**  
Will develop a macro-level concept plan for the San Joaquin Valley by bringing together stakeholders and existing efforts/resources to develop a strategy for integrating related parts of a complex system into a cohesive model for the region.
- **Air Quality and Environmental Protection**  
Will evaluate and recommend alternative paths to generate funding to invest in new research and technology to accelerate deployment of emission-reducing technologies.
- **Water Quality, Supply and Reliability**  
Will survey all relevant state, federal and local agencies, entities and individuals regarding existing needs, water projects, and institutional barriers.
- **Health and Human Services**  
Will develop new strategies for health coverage targeted at regional residents.
- **Technology and Advanced Telecommunications**  
Will work with the CPUC to develop accurate maps that reflect actual existence of high-speed broadband access.

In other news...

Recently, the Federal Government passed legislation requiring that schools study and celebrate the U.S. Constitution by dedicating a week to its significance. Having said that, I spent my Friday morning last week at the **Kings River Hardwick School** in **Hanford** where I got to take part in their **Constitution and Citizenship Day Assembly**. During the event I got to talk to the students about the Constitution and a bit about what I do in **Sacramento**. I must say that the students, parents, and teachers did an amazing job in organizing this event. In the evening, I attended a retirement dinner for **Kings County Veterans** Service Officer **Ron Dicken** in **Hanford**. It was great seeing the guys from the **Kings County Detachment Marine Corps League, American Legion Post 3** as well as the MC of the night, retired **Kern County Veterans** Service Officer **Chuck Bikakis**. After the dinner, I drove over to **Lemoore** where I attended the **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Salute to Agriculture Banquet**. There I presented **Assembly Resolutions** to **Don Gilkey** and the **Verdegaal family**. **Kirk Gilkey** gave a moving tribute to his father Don for his years of service and commitment to **Kings County** and the **Central Valley**. It was truly an enduring tribute.

On Saturday, I attended the **Association of California School Administrators** education forum at **West Hills College** in **Lemoore** where I facilitated a legislative breakout session. I met with several school administrators including **Lemoore Union Elementary School** Board of Trustee, **Jim Inglis**, **Central Union School District** Superintendent, **Ron Seaver**, **Lakeside Union Elementary School District** Superintendent, **John Partin**, and **Lemoore Union Elementary School District** Superintendent, **Dr. Ronald E. Meade**. I enjoy attending these forums because I always walk away having learned something new about our educational system in **Kings County**. Last year, I received a suggestion for legislation from Superintendent **Ron Seaver**. This idea became **AB 208** which was signed into law by the **Governor** this year. **AB 208** requires school districts to give preference to the children of **military personnel** in the process of an inter-district transfer.

On Tuesday, I began my day at the **Sears Logistic Center** in **Delano** with a tour by Executive Director **Mike Velton** and **Janice Tamsi**. The logistic Center is the single point of contact for all

logistical activity at Sears, Roebuck and Co. It is also the largest industrial employer in **Delano** providing over 700 jobs. I then headed over to **Delano High School** where I was guest speaker in **Mr. Steve Bsharah's** 11<sup>th</sup> grade Civic's class. I shared with the students some of the events that I will be hosting in the near future that they may benefit from. Those events include my **Cal Grants Workshop** and an **Educational Forum** that I will be hosting with Superintendent of Public Instruction **Jack O'Connell**. I also presented a certificate of recognition to visiting **Palestine** teacher **Banan Hammoun**. **Ms. Hammoun** is visiting **California** to learn about our educational system and programs so that she may implement them in her own country. At noon I met with **Delano** Mayor **Ruben Hill** at **Perko's Café** to discuss the impact of new growth in the area. By early afternoon I was in **Downtown Delano** visiting with some of the local businesses including **Topper's Men's Clothing**, **Jane's Jewelers**, **Bank of America**, **Dailey's Studio** and **Café Latte**. I also met with **Delano Elementary School** Superintendent **Ronald Garcia** to discuss general education funding. I then caught up with **Rosalina Rivera** and **Bonnie Armendariz**, Board Members for the **Delano Soroptimist**. Both were gracious enough to invite me to join their organization. In just a few weeks, I'll be an official member of the **Delano Soroptimist**. I ended my day with a tour of the new **Bakersfield College Delano Campus** by Interim Administrator **Chuck Feer**. I was very impressed with the tour and the state of the art technology that is available to students.

My Wednesday morning began with a meeting with **John Zumwalt** from **Zumwalt & Hansen Engineering** to talk about transportation issues in **Kings County**. By noon I was in **Fresno** meeting with Councilmember **Henry Perea Jr.** to discuss some of the issues affecting **Fresno** and the **State**. At about mid afternoon I was at **Kern Street Coffee** meeting with **Al Galvez** from **PG&E**. During our meeting Al informed me that just recently, **PG&E** introduced a **Spanish** language website [www.pge.com/es/](http://www.pge.com/es/). An hour later I was still at **Kern Coffee**, but this time meeting with **Serop Torossian** from **Kaiser Permanente**. We touched base on the issues each of us working on.

On Thursday, I joined **Corcoran** Mayor **Jim Wadsworth**, City Manager **Ron Hoggard** and Chief of Police **Ruben Shortnancy** for a meeting to discuss some of the issues affecting the city. I then headed over to Downtown **Corcoran** to visit local businesses including **Baltierra Bookkeeping**, **Dicks Radiator Shop**, and **Fabrie Jewelers**. By noon I had made my way to the **Corcoran Rotary** meeting. As always I had a great time and enjoyed all the feedback I received regarding my Identity Theft Forum. At about mid afternoon I was on a tour of the **Alpaugh School** with Superintendent **Rob Hudson**. Mr. Hudson showed me some of the damage the school has sustained over the years due to old age. My day then came to a close at the **Kern County Fair's Annual Salute to Agriculture Dinner** where I presented an **Assembly Resolution** to **John Cauzza**. John is a local farmer being honored as the **Agriculturist of the Year** by the **Kern County Fair Association**.

On a last note, I want to congratulate **Kings County** Supervisor **Tony Oliveira** on his appointment to the **CalPERS** board. Tony is replacing former Assembly Speaker and San Francisco Mayor **Willie Brown**.

## **EVENTS**

During our legislative break, I will be attending several meetings and events throughout the district. Below you will find just a few of the public events that I am scheduled to attend for the remainder of September. In next week's **Parra Notes** you will find the events I am scheduled to attend for the

month of October.

### **September (Tentative)**

- **Visit with a Government Class at North High School** – September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:25 a.m. to 10:25 a.m. in Bakersfield.
- **Corcoran Annual Cotton Festival Parade** - September 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Downtown Corcoran. The parade is set to begin on Dairy Ave.
- **2005 Hispanic Heritage Awards Banquet and Ball** - September 24th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Visalia.

### **ID THEFT COMMUNITY FORUMS**

I will be hosting identity theft community forums in Bakersfield and Kingsburg. We will be discussing important information you need to know about protecting yourself from identity theft so I encourage all of you to attend. Location, times, and dates can be found below.

#### **Kingsburg - September 24th**

Kingsburg Memorial Park  
Corner of Sierra and 18th st.  
Time 8:00 a.m. -9:30 a.m.

For more information please contact Matt Rogers at (559) 585-7170 or [Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov).

#### **Bakersfield - October 21st**

The Richard Prado Senior Center  
2101 Ridge Rd., Bakersfield, CA 93305  
Time: Noon – 2:00 p.m.

For more information please contact Manuel Barrera at (661) 334-3745 or [Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov).

### **GUN SAFETY SEMINAR**

On **October 22nd**, I will host a **Gun Safety Seminar** at **Burris Park** in **Kingsburg**. I encourage all of you to attend as we will be discussing important safety tips and new gun laws we should all be familiar with. Free trigger locks will be given out to those who attend. Burris Park is located at 6500 Clinton Ave, Kingsburg, CA 93631. For more information please contact Frank Stiger at (559) 585-7170 or at [Frank.Stigers@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Frank.Stigers@asm.ca.gov).

### **OTHER HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **'ICE' IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES**

Give emergency personnel another tool in providing you with the necessary medical services by using 'ICE'. It only takes a minute. All you have to do is enter the acronym 'ICE' with a name and phone number into your cell phone's address book of the individuals you would like to be contacted in case of an emergency.

#### **INTERNS WANTED**

I am accepting applications for the fall internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid

research and communication skills, have a strong interest in public policy, and political issues facing the Central Valley. Applications can be found by going to:  
<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Matt Rogers** at **(559) 585-7170** or by e-mail at [Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov).

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Manuel Barrera** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at [Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov).

For Sacramento office internships contact **Michael Tamariz** at **(916) 319-2030** or by e-mail at [Michael.Tamariz@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Tamariz@asm.ca.gov).

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